

## **The ISDH Publishes Guidance for Control and Management of Specific Antibiotic Resistant Organisms**

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The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) recently published the *Guideline for the Prevention and Management of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococcus (VRE), and Vancomycin-Intermediate/Resistant Staphylococcus aureus in Indiana Health Care*. This guide was developed collaboratively by the Indiana Chapter of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology and the ISDH.

This document provides guidance to any health care facility, agency, or office in Indiana regarding infection control practices when caring for individuals with MRSA, VRE, and vancomycin-intermediate/resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VISA/VRSA). The document is written as a guide to be utilized in developing infection control policies in all health care settings.

Over the past two decades, the control and management of antibiotic resistant organisms has been a major concern for Indiana infection control professionals in both hospitals and long-term care facilities. The control of both MRSA and VRE has been a challenge for Indiana facilities. Although there have been no reported cases of VISA/VRSA in Indiana, eight (8) reports of VISA are documented in the United States, along with two (2) reports of VRSA.

In addition, the epidemiology of MRSA is changing. MRSA was once largely confined to hospitals and long-term care facilities but is now emerging in the community. Currently, the community strains tend to be susceptible to several antibiotic classes but are resistant to beta-lactam antibiotics. Typing of strains by pulse-field gel electrophoresis suggests that community strains are distinctive from strains found in hospitals and long-term care facilities. Thus, the concern of transmission of multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO) is no longer an exclusive issue of hospitals and long-term care facilities. This guide was developed also for use by home care agencies, physicians, and other health care providers, in addition to hospitals and long term care facilities.

Highlights of the document include:

- MRSA, VRE, VISA/VRSA and reporting requirements in Indiana
- Appropriate antimicrobial therapy
- Surveillance of MRSA, VRE, and VISA/VRSA
- Microbiology practices
- Admission, discharge, and transfer of patients with MRSA, VRE, and VISA/VRSA
- Infection control recommendations
- Indications for decolonization
- Outbreak management
- Education of health care workers about MRSA, VRE, and VISA/VRSA
- Precautions for visitors
- Precautions for caregivers in the home

The ISDH wishes to recognize members of the Indiana Chapter of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology for their collaboration in the development of this valuable guideline. Indiana health care entities are encouraged to review the document and utilize the information in the development of policies and procedures addressing the control of these resistant organisms. Developing sound policies is an important step in combating the spread of these resistant organisms in Indiana. Please visit the following web site to obtain more information:

<http://www.statehealth.in.gov/professional/pmaoarihc04.htm>.

Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about these resistant organisms is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/Aresist/aresist.htm>.

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